

In Perpetuity – Considering Stewardship In Your Planning Process



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The Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLS) is responsible for monitoring and protecting the conservation values of over 385 conservation properties that the State of New Hampshire has invested in. The program's roots began in 1993 with the conclusion of the acquisition phase of the New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP).

CLS on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game; Department of Resources and Economic Development; and the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food directly monitors over 145 conservation easement properties. CLS staff work closely with the landowners and managers of these privately owned properties, providing resource support when appropriate.

In addition program staff provide technical assistance, education, and field support to the 78 communities that participated in the LCIP program protecting 240 properties. CLS ensures that monitoring of the locally held easements and fee simple holdings is being conducted annually. CLS serves as an important resource for communities to inquire about interpretation of easement language and other issues that continually arise during the perpetual life of conservation easements.

Stewardship Resources

One of the best single sources for information on land conservation and stewardship is the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national land conservation organization. They can be found at www.LTA.org. *The Standards and Practices Guidebook* is the most comprehensive resource available. It is under revision and is becoming available in segments.

CLS has a number of resources available in *Word* format and can be customized to suit your own needs. The following documents are employed in our office, with some being geared toward conservation commissions. Visit our website at www.nh.gov/oep for more information.

- ✓ Stewardship Philosophy
- ✓ Basic Rules for Record Keeping
- ✓ Baseline Documentation Checklist
- ✓ Baseline Documentation Report
- ✓ Conservation Easement Summary
- ✓ Monitoring Visit Checklist
- ✓ Landowner Information Checklist
- ✓ CLS Monitoring Inspection Report – for state-held CEs
- ✓ CLS Monitoring Inspection Report – for municipal properties
- ✓ Boundary Maintenance Protocol
- ✓ Basic Map and Compass Skills
- ✓ Field & Office Files - Introduction
- ✓ New Landowner File Intro Letter

The Center for Land Conservation Assistance and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, both, located at The Forest Society in Concord, are additional broad-based resources that work extensively with communities throughout the state.

Other Useful Websites:

- ✓ Society for the Protection of NH Forests - www.spnhf.org
- ✓ NH Association of Conservation Commissions - www.nhacc.org
- ✓ GRANIT Data Mapper - <http://mapper.granit.unh.edu>
- ✓ Wildlife Action Plan - http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_plan.htm
- ✓ Map of NH Land Trusts - <http://clca.forestociety.org/pdf/land-trust-map.pdf>
- ✓ Center for Land Conservation Assistance - <http://clca.forestociety.org/>